

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to Claim 15 because the recitation "Hirth-end" in Line 2 was believed to be misleading. The objection is not understood. A "Hirth-end" face serration is believed to be a commonly known structure. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 (which has been amended to correct a minor typographical error) defines the invention as a flange yoke for a universal joint, especially for a universal joint for the transmission of high torques. The flange yoke includes a flange element having a longitudinal axis. Two first attachment faces are arranged offset to each other by 180° on a first end face of the flange element on a common circumference around the longitudinal axis. A connection face is arranged on a second end face of the flange element by which the flange element is connectable to a counter flange. The flange yoke includes two bearing elements each having a bearing bore that is arranged co-axially on a common bore axis that intersects the longitudinal axis of the flange element at a right angle. A second attachment face abuts one of the first attachment faces of the flange element. At least two blind holes with internal threads extend parallel to the longitudinal axis of the flange element starting from the second attachment face. For each blind hole, a through bore is arranged that extends parallel to the longitudinal axis in the flange element. The through bores respectively start from a first clamping face and end in one of the first attachment faces. Attachment screws are passed through the through bores and are supported, respectively, via a screw nut or a screw head on the respective first clamping face and sit in the blind holes.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10, and 13-15 as being anticipated by the Hamlin reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed. The Hamlin reference discloses a socket member 2 that supports a pair of bearing members 10. Each of the bearing members 10 has a pair of non-threaded recesses 13 provided therein. Each of the bearing members 10 is retained on the socket member 2 by threading a pair of threaded fasteners 15 through respective threaded openings 14 formed in the socket member 2. The innermost tips of the threaded fasteners 15

extend through the socket member 2 and into the non-threaded recesses 13 provided the bearing member 10. Thus, the Hamlin structure fails to show the applicant's claimed structure, wherein (1) each of the bearing elements 7, 7' has "at least two blind holes with internal threads" provided therein, (2) "each blind hole [has] a through bore" formed through the flange element, and (3) "attachment screws are passed through the through bores and are supported in the blind holes."

Furthermore, it would not be obvious to provide such blind holes with internal threads in the bearing elements 7, 7' because the Hamlin bearing members 10 appear to be too small to accommodate such threaded holes. Thus, it is believed that independent Claim 1, as well as the other rejected claims that depend therefrom, are clearly patentable over the Hamlin reference and the other art of record.

It is noted that on Page 3, Lines 1-2, the Examiner states that the "blind holes are not claimed to have internal threads therein." However, Claim 1, Line 11 clearly states that each of the bearing elements includes "at least two blind holes with internal threads." Thus, this statement would appear to be incorrect.

New independent Claim 22 defines the invention as a universal joint including a first flange yoke, a second flange yoke, and a journal cross. The first flange yoke includes a flange element having a pair of bearing elements secured thereto, wherein the bearing elements have respective bores formed therethrough that are centered on a common bore axis. The second flange yoke includes a pair of bearing elements, wherein the bearing elements have respective bores formed therethrough that are centered on a common bore axis. The journal cross has first and second pairs of journals rotatably supported thereon. The first pair of journals is supported in the bores of the first flange yoke bearing elements, while the second pair of journals is supported in the bores of the second flange yoke bearing elements. This structure, which is clearly illustrated in Fig. 1, is not shown or suggested in the Hamlin reference

or the other art of record. Thus, it is believed that independent Claim 22 is also patentable over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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